

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6349

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUES INTERPELLATION; ROK/CIA
REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTS PRESS ON HOW TO PLAY KIM YONG-
SAM'S KEYNOTE SPEECH

REF: A. SEOUL 6581 B. SEOUL 6655

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUED INTERPELLATION OCT 8
ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY AGENDA ITEMS.
DURING MORNING SESSION YUCHONGHOE ASSEMBLYMAN YI CHIN-UI
AND NDP ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG UN-KAP QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT.

2. YI CONCENTRATED ON NATIONAL SECURITY. HE ASKED
GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THREAT FROM NORTH KOREA, DELAY
IN MILITARY MODERNIZATION (MOD) PLAN, AND POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVES IF UNC DISBANDED. ON DIPLOMATIC SIDE
HE ASKED FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON SOUTH-NORTH TALKS AND
FOR ROKG POLICY TOWARD JAPAN IN WAKE OF AUG 15 INCIDENT.

3. SPEAKING FOR GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE MINISTER SUH
REPLIED THAT US AND ROK HAD AGREED AT SCM THAT THREAT
FROM NORTH STILL EXISTS AND DESCRIBED NORTH KOREAN
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MILITARY MODERNIZATION. HE SAID THAT MOD PLAN

HAD BEEN DELAYED BUT WOULD "CATCH UP" AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

4. ON DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS, ACTING FONMIN LHO REPLIED THAT ROK WAS OPPOSED TO DISSOLUTION OF UNC, BUT THAT THIS A MATTER FOR SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE AND IN ANY CASE US FORCES ARE IN KOREA UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. LHO SAID THAT BOTH ROK AND GOJ REALIZE MUTUAL INTER-DEPENDENCE IN SECURITY FIELD AND WOULD COOPERATE IN FUTURE ON BASIS OF EQUALITY.

5. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG FOLLOWED PATTERN SET BY KIM YONG-SAM IN CRITICIZING ROKG AND CALLING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND RELEASE OF THOSE JAILED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES. CHONG ALSO CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR CORRUPTION; HE CITED RECENT GEM SMUGGLING SCANDAL AND EARLIER BANK FRAUD CASE. SINCE PRIME MINISTER WAS AT ANOTHER FUNCTION, GOVERNMENT REPS DID NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS ON DOMESTIC SITUATION. (AFTERNOON SESSIONS ARE CONTINUING.)

6. PRESS DID GIVE REASONABLY PROMINENT PLAY TO KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM CHONG-PIL EXCHANGE AT OCT 7 SESSION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO USIS PRESS SOURCES, ON OCT 6 KCIA ISSUED ORDER TO LOCAL PRESS INSTRUCTING THEM HOW TO PLAY STORY OF KIM YONG-SAM'S OCT 7 KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO KCIA, KIM'S REMARKS WERE TO BE GIVEN ONLY EQUAL (OR LESSER) PRESS PLAY TO THAT ACCORDED PRIMIN'S REBUTTAL SPEECH FOR GOVT. STORY WAS NOT TO BE THE MAJOR HEADLINE IN PAPERS.

7. RESULT WAS THAT ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS EXCEPT CHUNGANG ILBO PLAYED BY RULES IN EARLIEST EDITIONS. WHEN TONGA ILBO SAW CHUNGANG ILBO'S LEADING ARTICLE WAS KIM'S SPEECH, HOWEVER, IT CHANGED ITS SECOND EDITION LEAD TO STORY ON KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

8. KOREAN PRESS CIRCLES ALSO SPECULATED THAT BEGINNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MUN SE KWANG TRIAL AND ECONOMIC NEWS THAT PRICE CEILINGS HAVE BEEN LIFTED ON ELEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COMMODITY ITEMS WERE ORCHESTRATED BY GOVERNMENT TO HIT NEWSPAPERS AT SAME TIME AS KEYNOTE SPEECH.
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